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Urban District of Burnham-on-Sea




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1965



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BURNHAM -ON- SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

WORKS, HEALTH AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE, 1965.

Chairman :

MR. R. F. TREGELLES

Vice Chairman :

MR. A. T. MASON

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(Vice Chairman of the
Council)

MR. W. T. PEPPERALL

MR. R. W. E. RIDD

MR. W. V. THOMAS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1965

Medical Officer of Health:

R. H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B. B.S.

Housing Officer and Assistant Public Health Inspector

H. F. ROBINSON,
M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Housing Officer:

C. A. BUNNETT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1965.

Tel: Bridgwater: 4147/8

Health Department,
22 King Square,
BRIDGWATER.

October, 1966.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-on-Sea Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1965. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration which I have received and for the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow Officers.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

General Statistics

Area (including foreshore)	2,246 acres
Population (census 1961)	10,020
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1965	10,780
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1965	3,843
Rateable value on 31st December, 1965	£383,169
Sum represented by ld. rate on 31st December, 1965	£1,480

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1965

Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	71	72	143
Illegitimate	3	5	8
	<u>74</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>151</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.00		
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.29		
Still Births	1		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	6.62		
Total live and still births	152		
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)	4		
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total	26.49		
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	27.96		
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births -illegitimate	Nil		
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	13.30		
Early Neo-natal Mortality (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	13.30		
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	19.73		
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	Nil		
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil		

Deaths

Total number of deaths	167
Death Rate per 1,000 population	15.49

Births.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 151 births (74 boys and 77 girls) in the Urban District during 1965, being 25 births fewer than in 1964. Of these births 8 were illegitimate. This is 5.29 of the total live births, as compared with 13.06 in 1964.

The birth rate of any area is dependent upon the composition of the population in that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared, the Registrar General provides a "Comparability Factor" for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate of each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Urban District adjusted in this manner is increased from 14.00 to 16.80 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 18.00.

Birth rate for the Urban District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Crude Birth Rate	14.16	15.53	13.56	14.98	14.00
Standardised Birth Rate	16.00	17.54	16.27	17.97	16.80
England and Wales	17.4	18.0	18.2	18.2	18.0

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Urban District during 1965 was 137. 29 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand, 59 deaths of Urban District residents registered outside the District. The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 167 (82 males and 85 females). This was 4 less than in the previous year, and gave a crude death rate of 15.49.

This crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with the death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 11.15 per 1,000 of the population and this was compared with 11.5 for England and Wales.

Death rates for the Urban District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Crude Death Rate	14.66	14.55	15.19	16.31	15.49
Standardised Death Rate	11.55	10.47	11.24	12.06	11.15
England and Wales	12.0	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.5

Of the 167 deaths, 112 occurred in people over the age of 70 years. 27 occurred in people in the productive age groups. 15 to 64. Details of the latter are given in the following table:-

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus					2	2
Malignant neoplasm of breast				1		1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				2	3	5
Diabetes					1	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system					5	5
Coronary disease and angina				1	3	4
Other heart disease					1	1
Pneumonia				1	1	2
Bronchitis					1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system				1		1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases					4	4
	-	-	-	6	21	27

The following table shows the causes of all deaths and sex distribution:-

Cause of Death	M	F	Total
All Causes	78	89	167
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	5	3	8
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	3	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	12	21
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	16	23	39
18. Coronary disease and angina	12	12	24
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	2
20. Other heart disease	5	6	11
21. Other circulatory disease	10	8	18
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	4	4	8
24. Bronchitis	3	2	5
25. Other disease of respiratory system	-	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	-	1	1
35. Suicide	-	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

Cancer Mortality.

The number of deaths of Urban District residents from cancer was 36 (males 15, females 21). This was 2 fewer than the previous year. Cancer deaths constituted 21.5% of the total deaths during the year.

The table shows the localisation of the disease in the 36 cases:-

Localisation	Number of Deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1964
Stomach	1	1	2	7
Lung, bronchus	5	3	8	4
Breast	-	2	2	7
Uterus		3	3	2
Other and unspecified organs	9	12	21	18
Total	15	21	36	38

Cancer of the Uterus.

In the report for last year reference was made to the need for a comprehensive scheme to provide for the examination of routine tests with a view to preventing cancer of the womb. It is understood that sufficient trained staff are now available to undertake the work of examining cervical smears and it is to be hoped that soon the examination of these smears will be available to all women who desire it.

Cancer of the Lung.

The ages at which deaths from lung cancer occurred during the last five years is detailed in the following table:-

	Under 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
1961	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4
1962	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
1963	-	-	-	-	4	1	7	9
1964	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4
1965	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	8

Deaths from Heart Disease.

Of 157 deaths, heart disease caused 37 (males 19, females 18). It represented 22.15% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 5.4 per 1,000 of the population.

Infantile Mortality.

4 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 26.49 per 1,000 of all live births, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 19.0.

The following table shows the causes of deaths:-

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1-4 weeks	1-6 mths	6-12 mths	Total Under 1 year
Subarachnoid haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	1
Influenzal Meningitis	-	-	1	-	1
Atelectasis	1	-	-	-	1
Bronchopneumonia	-	1	-	-	1

Population.

The total population of the Urban District as at June, 1965, was 10,780 which shows an increase of 300 on the previous year. It is interesting to note population changes and the following table illustrates the trend since 1955:-

Year	Population	Estimated Increase	Natural Increase
1955	9,630	50	12
1956	9,690	60	-6
1957	9,720	30	-8
1958	9,710	-10	11
1959	9,790	80	16
1960	10,020	230	-18
1961	9,890	-130	-5
1962	10,240	350	22
1963	10,400	160	-17
1964	10,480	80	5
1965	10,780	300	-16

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS

AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Urban District during 1965. The table is drawn up after making the necessary contact one in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals:-

Disease	Infant 1 yr	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	Total
Measles	5	8	17	12	15	18	14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	114
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	8	17	13	15	50	6	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	141

During the previous year 46 cases of notifiable diseases were notified.

Immunisation.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

The following table shows the number of children who completed a course of diphtheria immunisation during the year. It is a most satisfactory immunisation rate.

Diphtheria Immunisation	Children born in the years						Total
	1965	1964	1963	1962	1958-61	Others Under 16	
Primary	54	94	5	1	3	-	155
Reinforcing	-	13	45	6	111	93	269
Total	54	107	49	7	114	93	424

Acute Poliomyelitis.

No cases were notified.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The following table shows the number of persons who received the course of vaccination.

Polio	Children born in the years						Total
	1965	1964	1963	1962	1958-61	Others Under 16	
Primary	46	108	9	5	12	3	183
Reinforcing	-	7	6	1	97	12	123
Total	46	115	15	6	109	15	306

Measles.

113 cases were notified as compared with 32 in the previous year. Treatment by modern drugs has done much to reduce the severity of the common complications of this highly infectious disease. Nevertheless despite its triviality measles consumes a considerable proportion of doctors working time in epidemic years, and for this reason alone its prevention would greatly help the family doctor. Also, considerable quantities of antibiotics are prescribed in treating a great many cases and thus prevention would also effect a considerable economic saving. At the present time investigations into the efficiency of a new anti-measles vaccine are being carried out in different parts of the country and it may well be that before very long a useful addition may be made to the existing triple vaccine which protects children against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of confirmed cases is 8.

Vaccinations against Smallpox.

The number of persons vaccinated or revaccinated during the year was 106 as compared with 100 in the previous year.

Smallpox Vaccination	0-3 mths	4-6 mths	7-9 mths	10-12 mths	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	Totals
Primary	-	3	17	5	45	20	5	97
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	9
Total	-	3	17	5	45	21	13	106

Vaccination is now voluntary, but the value of individual vaccination is in my opinion, undiminished and I would advise all parents to have their children vaccinated, preferably during the second year of life.

Tetanus Immunisation.

Tetanus immunisation is now combined with diphtheria immunisation almost as a routine and practically all infants receiving primary immunisation and all school children receiving booster injections are offered a combined vaccine.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December, 1965, was as follows:-

Tetanus Immunisation	Children born in the years					Others under 16	Total
	1965	1964	1963	1962	1958-61		
Primary	54	94	3	1	3	38	193
Reinforcing	-	13	46	6	115	75	255
Total	54	107	49	7	118	113	448

Tuberculosis.

It is not worth reporting that in 1965 only one new case of tuberculosis was notified, and that no cases of the non-respiratory form of the disease were reported.

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to children between the ages of 13 and 14 years attending school in the Rio-Compost Divisional Area. 1269 accepted the offer and underwent a preliminary skin test, the 'Heaf Test', to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 995 of these gave negative results and were offered the B.C.G. vaccine.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at Musgrave Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year included 4 water samples. Owing to re-organisation within the Department it was necessary to temporarily discontinue route sampling of ice cream and the other prepared foods. It is considered however, that there is merit in this type of testing and I am happy to report that this work has now again been resumed.

Home Help Service.

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater.

The Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 157 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of cases:-

Maternity	18
Old age and infirmity	99
Tuberculosis	2
Chronic Sick	24
Post Operation	6
Emergency Illness	1
Other cases	7

In addition to the normal service, the patient or other members of the family, if necessary, are allowed to remain at home, where it not possible to attend the hospital.

In addition to the normal service, arrangements have been made for women to sit up with seriously ill cases where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

The total of Home Helps at 31.12.65 was as follows:-

Full time	14
Part time	27

Welfare of Old People.

The Council are now assisting the N.V.S. to provide meals on wheels for old people, and this worthwhile service is much appreciated by the recipients. An average of 48 meals per week are distributed.

National Assistance for Old People's Accommodation.

A Bill has been introduced through information action, and in the event of its passing the Council to take statutory action to secure the provision of suitable accommodation for old people.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Accommodation.

The number of permanent dwellings in the Urban District	3,843
The number of permanent dwellings owned by the Local Authority	540
Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	-
Number of houses declared as a result of an inspection given by the owner or tenant under the provisions of Closing Orders	5
Number of houses made fit during the year	35

	Houses/flats erected during the year		Houses in course of erection	
	For slum clearance	For other purposes	For slum clearance	For other purposes
Local Authority	-	47	-	31
Private Enterprise	-	141	-	124
Total	-	188	-	155

In the period from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1957 a total of 1345 houses have been built. These were made up of 517 by the Local Authority and 828 by private enterprise.

At the end of the year there were 214 applicants for Council houses.

Water Supply.

The mains water supply was satisfactory both as to quality and quantity. The water is treated by chlorination and bacteriological tests were carried out on the treated water on 4 occasions, all of which gave excellent results.

Sewage Disposal.

As mentioned in previous reports, the condition of the sewerage system of the District gives rise to anxiety.

Many measures have been taken by the Council to repair the sewer at certain manholes which were known to be in a critical state. The sewerage system is generally overloaded and are frequently

The Council's proposals for re-sewering the District and for treatment of the effluent before discharge into the River Brue have been submitted to the Ministry for approval in principle. The present situation is a most unsatisfactory one and it is to be hoped that the Council will be able to proceed with their proposals as soon as possible.

Work on diverting the old sewer outfalls at the Clyce and Highbridge from the old bed of the River Brue and discharging them into the new Highbridge sewer has been completed and has been a great relief to the community which existed for so many years.

Refuse Disposal.

Domestic refuse is removed by the Council on a weekly collection. The Council have agreed with Bridgwater Rural District Council for the joint use of the latter Council's tip at Puriton. Here refuse is tipped into a large claypit and is covered as much as possible. The tip being situated well out into the Country, generally little or no nuisance arises.

Camping Sites.

No licences have been issued for stationing of individual movable dwellings. Five campin sites have been licensed. Sanitary conditions remain satisfactory. The existing sites have been reasonably well conducted during the holiday season.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the Urban District.

Ice Cream.

No sample taken in 1955.

Slaughteries.

Ample facilities for slaughtering are available at the abattoir at Weston-Super-Mare, and consequently there are no licensed slaughterhouses in the Urban District.

Premises Where Food is prepared.

No statutory action has taken regarding enforcement of the provisions of the Food and Drug Act, and co-operation from food traders has continued to be good and improvements have been made to premises and equipment.

Food Hygiene.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1950.

Routine inspections of premises under the above named Regulations have continued. Shopkeepers have been interested in the production and sale of food under hygienic conditions and improvements have been achieved by direct discussion rather than by statutory action such as the service of notices under the Regulations.

The number of food premises in the Urban District which are subject to these regulations is 107, and these have been classified in the following categories, each business being classified by its main trade.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Schedule of Premises.

Trade Category.	Total Number.	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 16.	Number to which Reg. 19 applies.	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Butchers' and fresh meat shops.	12	12	12	12
Bakers and Confectioners	8	8	6	6
Fried Fish Shops	3	3	3	3
Groceries and Provisions	43	43	3	3
Cafes, Restaurants, Soft drinks each at 11s.	21	18	19	18
Hotels and Public Houses.	20	20	9	9
Total	107	104	52	50

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1961:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	20	8		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	88	24		
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)				
Total	108	32		

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found		Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).					
Total	6	6	-	-	-

Part VIII

(Sections 133 and 134)

Section 133		Section 134			
No. of out-workers in August. list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel: Making etc., Cleaning and Washing.	2				

